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The PRODUCT.—Will bear comparison with the Waters made by the most noted makers in England.

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VICTORIA DISPENSARY. [38]

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.

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whenever practicable, are despatched by first steamer leaving after receipt of order.

For COAST PORTS, Waters are packed and placed on board ship at Hongkong prices, and the full amount allowed for Packages and Empties when received in good condition.

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TONIC WATER
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RASPBERRYADE
GINGERADE

No Credit given for Bottles that look dirty or greasy, or that appear to have been used for any other purpose than that of containing Aerated Waters, as such Bottles are never used again by us.

A. S. WATSON & Co., LIMITED,
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TO SUBSCRIBERS.

SUBSCRIBERS TO "THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" ARE MOST RESPECTFULLY REMINDED THAT ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 1893.

ALVES.

HONGKONG'S latest "Comedy of Incapables" has now almost reached its final scene, for with the exit of ALVES, through the side door of the Supreme Court yesterday, the leading figure in this extraordinary burlesque disappeared for ever, at least so far as the world at large is concerned. It is, however, in the last and principal act that public interest centres. The main actors hitherto have lain almost dormant, while ALVES, in the character of the cunning, scheming, thieving clerk occupied the boards, playing his part consistently and with method; and having now been made the recipient of those "wages of woe" so conspicuously earned, he makes room for others. They have been "rung on" and are on the eve of their *ultima*. But what of their reception and ultimate reward? What of him, or them, whose apparent incapacities are such that they might fairly be written down as being morally responsible for the falling-away from the lines of rectitude in the case of this hapless alien? In connection with this question the voice

of local public opinion has for the first time on record made itself heard, and has affirmed that it will not brook anything short of a thorough investigation and impartial report. The investigation has been made and the public now await the issue of this, together with the decisions of the Government.

Mr. FRANCIS, Q.C., put a good deal of truth in his address to the Court on Tuesday; for it really is but reasonable to expect fraud in a department whose able chief is absolutely ignorant (on his own sworn statement) as to whether the responsible work is done by the responsible men; as to whether the office is conducted in accordance with any principles at all; as to the verities rudiments of his departmental work. When the head of the office is so appallingly indifferent, what else can be expected but irregularity leading to a big smash? If the hon. Colonial Treasurer had filled a biscuit-box with bank notes and thrown it into the street, who would be to blame for the loss of the money? Of course, those who took it away would be directly liable to imprisonment, but what of the Treasurer? Ought he to have known whether the Crown rents were actually received by the shroff or by the clerk? The shroff was secured, the clerk was not; the shroff was under the direct eyes of the auditors, the clerk was not—or at any rate not necessarily; the whole machinery for detecting fraud was aimed at the shroff, not at the clerk. Then who but the head of the department ought to have made sure that the money was confined to its proper channel? If the auditor had not so religiously avoided doing a little more than his strict duty, he would have discovered the fraud at the very first; but if the Treasurer had had the slightest idea of doing anything for his huge salary, there never could have been any such "first."

THE WATER SUPPLY.

INNUMERABLE complaints of a valid nature still continue to reach us regarding the very unsatisfactory condition of the local water supply; of its irregularity, partial failure and, in many cases, total stoppage. It is rather a distasteful task for us to have to adversely criticise the official efforts of an admittedly clever and conscientious public officer, but in connection with this grievance we cannot hold Mr. F. A. COOPER, Director of Public Works, blameless. Perhaps the fault lies more with the executive working of his department than with him personally, but in either case it is upon his shoulders that the responsibility rests. It may be news to this honourable gentleman to learn that for the past two months the district of Wa-in-long has been absolutely deprived of its supply of water from the mains: such, however, is the case. Residents in Staunton Street have not only been subjected to all the inconveniences and hardships attendant upon the failure of the "system" but have been put to the additional and irritating expense of hiring coolies for the conveyance of water from neighbouring wells, which are in a more or less insanitary condition. And, irrespective of this failure their water-rates have to be paid. To our knowledge many tenants in that district have given notice to their landlords that unless some radical reform be introduced they will be forced to vacate and seek houses in more favored localities. Complaints have been made to the head of the Department, and we believe a subordinate officer of more or less ability has been sent to investigate them, but with only negative results so far as the residents are concerned.

What is required is a thorough investigation into the existing system of supply, the varying sizes of the connecting pipes and reader attention to faults made known to the Department. Until this is done and more efficient supervision be exercised over the general management of the entire water system, abuses will exist and complaints continue to roll in. It is a crying shame that poor people who cannot afford to defend their rights by law, even if they knew how, should have to pay for what they never get.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

ACCORDING to an American contemporary there are over 3,000 applications for 300 consularships in Mr. Cleveland's Administration.

THE Canadian Pacific Railroad Company is building a new line to give it a detour south from the Canadian border, and so avoid snow.

"WHO make the laws of the colony, I wonder?" "Our legislators, my son." "Well, then, what are laws for?" "They are created, my boy, to explain to legislators the meaning of their laws."

Editor of *China Whispers*.—What's new? Friend.—Five "drunks" on Queen's Road. What's new with you? Editor.—Increased our circulation to-day, my boy, by two copies!

AN error appeared in the shipping list of our last night's issue. The Portuguese gunboat *Ona* did not arrive from Macao on Tuesday, but that vessel being at the present time in Bangkok with his Excellency Governor Boyd. The gunboat that arrived from Macao was the *Berge*, and she is now at Kowloon Dock.

THE New York *Dramatic Mirror* says: "The managers of our stock companies would do well to observe and profit by the Dase Company's stage management. It is a revelation. Its force and its charm lie in abrupt departure from archaic stage conventions and in marvelously successful reflections, both in outline and in detail, of the realities of life. It represents the highest development of the stage manager's art in the New York has seen. It is art without artifice."

Old Giddy.—You wish to marry my daughter? She's had but little experience.— Jack Cumso.—Never mind, old man; I'm willing to overlook that!

THE court martial being held on board the *Victor Emmanuel*, which was commenced last Tuesday, as reported in these columns, on the conduct of Mr. Hicks, Chief Engineer of the *Daphne* has again been adjourned until to-morrow.

LOTTIE COLLINS is said to have made so much money out of "Tara-ra Boom-de-ay" that she wants to try her hand at losing some with a show of her own next season. The eccentric dancer may learn what it is to pay the piper.

Editor of *Granny*.—You desire employment? Have you any references? Mr. Quill.—Yes, Sir, showing me to have been a first class journalist for twenty years. Editor.—I'm sorry, but there's no place for a man like that on this paper.

At the Magistracy to-day Mr. H. E. Wodehouse, coroner, held an inquest on the body of a Chinese woman, wife of a chandler at Shau-ki-wan, who hanged herself on the 15th inst. on account of her husband's bad treatment of her. The verdict was that she died by her own act.

"THE crinoline dance," according to the Philadelphia *Musical and Dramatic*, is the latest fad. A manager of a farce-comedy show is to be the first to try the hoopsticks on a bevy of pretty girls and to let them dance for the edification of folks who care for that sort of thing.

THE *Daily Press* of this morning publishes under a conspicuous heading some particulars of the recent departure of Mr. Forrest, late British Consul at Amoy, and claims that they are "From a Correspondent." As a matter of fact they are culled, word for word, from the *Amoy Gazette*.

PETITIONS in bankruptcy recently reported in *Sydney* daily papers:—Wolf, Abel and Co. v. Levy; Jacobs v. Isaacs. Truly dog has begun to eat dog. Also—most ominous of all—Slevens, Green and Co. v. Cohen—the gentle selling on the Jew to get his month. Ischaed! The glory hath departed from Israel!

FOR insufferable snobbery and abject tedium commend us to "Brownie" of the *China Mail*. In the list of passengers who left yesterday by the French mail published by our evening contemporary, we find the "Hon. J. J. Bell" (Irving). Who is this "honorable"? Mr. Bell, so long as he remained a member of the Legislative Council, was entitled, in the *China Mail*, to be styled the Hon. Mr. Bell, but when he ceased to be a member of that august assembly the title lapsed. And Mr. Irving was succeeded in the Council by Mr. Kewick weeks ago, and from that time had just as much right to the coveted distinction (H) and no more, than the *China Mail* oracle himself.

FOR ways that are dark and methods that are curious, the wily Celestial stands unrivalled. "Here is an instance. When the authorities at Nanking Arsenal were taking an inventory of the magazine in which the other day a charge of some half dozen barrels was discovered. Investigation showed one of the coolies in the Yard, who was at times employed carrying heavy packages from the Arsenal to the city, used to conceal a barrel inside his carefully belled-out bamboo pole, and then with the aid of a confederate he planted the plunder in the house of a friend close by. The three enterprising rogues are now doing a term of *canjias*, with the prospect of three thousand remissions from a bamboo at the expiry of the sentence."

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Kohi Herald* writes as follows:—"The little band of Portuguese residents in Japan will welcome the news of the appointment of Sr. D. Cissati as Consul-General at Tokyo. At last, but not until a good deal of trouble has been found its way to the columns of the home papers, has the Lisbon Government awakened from its slumber, and the unsatisfactory plight in which the Portuguese residents in this country have been placed by their former representatives seems likely to be remedied somewhat. But whether or not the appointment of this official to the post of Tokyo will lead to the recovery of the privileges lost, is as puzzling a conundrum as the threatened litigation on the part of Sr. Loureiro. However, a representative at the Court of Tokyo is better than being left entirely to the mercy of a people who, though enlightened in many respects, have yet much to learn in respect to the application of civilized laws. Sr. Cissati has been Portuguese Consul at Canton for the last five years."

FROM the *Sydney Bulletin*:—"In the course of a speech at Brandenburg, the other day, a German General assured his auditors that he had been entrusted with a mission by God!"—Cable.

A million of soldiers in gaudy array Cry "Hoch!" to the Emperor Bill! A million of loafers are fooling away The money that tollers unceasingly pay—

For such is the Heavenly will, Whilst cannons galore, ever ready to roar At a nervous Imperial nod, Are shodding suggestions of triumphs in store For the man with a mission from God, From God,

Which might strike a heat-seen as odd, A heathen might think it were almost as well If orders to scrupulous kings Were given by Satan, the monarch of hell— His Nibs with the broods and the sulphurous swell Might alter the order of things!

Put soldiers on farns (converting their aims Into plain ploughshares to till the land) On principle, seeing that peace hasn't arisen, For the man with a mission from G'd, From God,

Who preaches the gospel of Rod.

SAYS the New York *Maritime Register*:—"The question of foreigners commanding American vessels is one that, if public opinion is to be relied upon, government officials take little interest in. Of course many captains now in command of vessels sailing from this port and all other United States ports are foreign born, but it has often been stated many have been naturalized, that have had never gone further than to declare their intentions. Whether their reports rest upon a good foundation or are merely the opinions of irresponsible people, 'along the beach' this paper has no means of knowing. But a belief does exist that many coasting captains are not citizens. At Baltimore the officials have recently belittled themselves and finding that the master of the schooner *George Lawrence*, a Norwegian, named *Bonheim*, although a matter for several years had been naturalized, promptly fined the schooner 50 cents per ton and removed the captain from his command until he could find time to declare his intentions and wait five years for the necessary papers to be granted, qualifying him to command an American vessel. The courts that naturalize foreigners and the inspectors who grant licenses are to be pitied about such matters, and it would be a wholesome lesson to have the inspector who allowed this foreigner *Bonheim* to transgress the laws removed from his office and fined if the inspectors and police have not already landed him in oblivion."

THE Patterson-O'Loghlen Ministry of Victoria propose to reduce the total of Cabinet Ministers' salaries from £14,000 to £10,000 a year, while each private member's "screw" is to be pared down from £300 to £250. The Hongkong Ministry, on the other hand, proposes to stick hard and fast to the increased salaries obtained by false pretences. We shall see!

At the Magistracy to-day six out of the 200 or 300 coolies who raised a disturbance at the Kowloon *Brigade* factory last Saturday (5th) were brought before Mr. Wodehouse and charged by Mr. Gidley with assault. Three of the ringleaders (women) were each fined \$10 and made to pay \$5 as security for six weeks' good behaviour, and the rest were fined \$3 each.

WHEN Mr. Thompson, ex-Secretary of the United States Navy, was installed by President Hayes, Mrs. Thompson is said to have remarked: "Richard for Secretary of the Navy? How absurd! Why, he doesn't even know how to swim." When Mr. Mitchell-Innes was appointed Colonial Treasurer of Hongkong, the *Telegraph* said the honorable gentleman didn't know the debit from the credit side of a ledger.

At a regular Convocation of the United Chapter, No. 1341, E.C., held on the 15th instant, the following Companions were installed:—Mr. E. Comp. J. Bryant, M.E.Z.; Mr. E. Comp. W. L. Ford, H. M.F.; Comp. J. Lewis, J. Comp. R. Grumble, Treasurer; Comp. F. Howell, Scribe; Comp. A. Mann, Scribe N.; Comp. T. Spifford, P.S.; Comp. S. E. Edmunds, First Assistant S.; Comp. H. Warris, Second Assistant S.; Comp. J. R. Germalin, Director of Ceremonies; Comp. J. Collett, Steward; Comp. J. Maxwell, Janitor.

THUS our morning contemporary editorially, referring to the alleged departmental defects which made *Alves* delinquency possible:—"It may be taken for granted that if Mr. Mitchell-Innes were continued in the office there would be no repetition of the mistake. The Auditor, if he were continued in his office, would also probably be less perfunctory in the discharge of his duties in future." Might we be permitted to suggest to the assistant Editor of the *Daily Press* that he would have exercised a wiser judgment and shown better sense if he had held over these certainly untimely remarks until the report of the Special Commission had been made public.

WHEN some cyclic two or three years ago planned a hedge of young trees in front of the H. S. bank building in Hongkong, and tied the bank to them, the prudent and sagacity displayed were universally applauded. But with the constant strain on the morning rope, with a rude shock every now and then when a Bank man goes to gaol, or escapes to Canton, at a cost either way of a lakh or so every time—it is no wonder that the trees look worn out and overburdened with care. Something must be done to save them, both for artistic reasons and as a commercial precaution, while the whole Bank goes. It would be as well if, instead of the building to a tree, some of the Bank people could be tied—to the top branches, by the neck!

THAT was an interesting elopement from the Blue Mountains the other week, says the *Sydney Bulletin*—eight hundred a year (and a girl thrown in) with a common, ordinary fence! The heroine had a regular sheep-dog of an aunt, too, who had strict orders to prevent her charge having any communication whatever with the milk-maid. For the fate of the milk-maid, the cater might lead to her being entangled in the cat-collar by moonlight—and her aunt never left her by day or by night until, in a weak, unguarded moment, she saw a relative relative took a bath. In that brief interval the niece fled with the fence, and now there is one well-rinsed but disconsolate female who doesn't intend to wash in the future without consulting a fortune-teller.

ONE morning the manager of a large banking house in New York was not a little surprised when the opening doors of his private office were suddenly and unceremoniously thrown open by a rough dust-begrimed cowboy, with trousers tucked into his boots and his broad "down-easter" set rakishly on the back of his head. "I say," drawled this strange intruder, producing a sealed and much soiled letter, "I want you to put me on a job here in your office, this is a letter from General—'an old crone of yours.' The worthy manager somewhat critically surveyed the laudatory letter of recommendation, folded it carefully up and did not regret to say that he cannot assist you."

"How's that?" inquired the unabashed cowboy with evident surprise. "Well, sir, to tell the truth, your appearance is against you—your manner and attire savour too much of the Woolly West."

"Thanks!" replied the cowboy as he tramped out of his presence. In about an hour's time this peculiar individual returned, but not in the same guise, having shaved himself, and discarded the cowboy clothes for a neatly fitting town costume; and his bearing, demeanour left nothing to be desired. This time he was greeted at the manager's door, and advancing hat in hand, made a polite and deferential bow, and again handed him the General's recommendation. Seeing that the cowboy had taken the hint in good part, and being now very favourably impressed with his new and gentlemanly appearance, he glanced over the letter and the cowboy, and said:—

"Ah, yes—from my dear old friend the General. Ah, yes—of course—know each other as boys—what's the name of that fellow?" "Well, Sir," said the reformed cowboy, rising and bowing profoundly. "Since you are so generous you can oblige me by going to the devil. Good morning!"

SUPREME COURT.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.
(Before Chief Justice Fielding Clarke.)

April 20th.

AN INTERESTING JUDGMENT.

Lai Ching sought for an injunction against Fong Tai Yuan and another, latrine-keepers. Mr. G. J. Phillips, instructed by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson, was for plaintiff; Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., instructed by Mr. H. L. Donnelly, was for defendant. Mr. Ho Wai, instructed by Mr. Ho Wai, was for second defendant. The case has been before the Court several days. Judgment was delivered to-day as follows:—

The defendants are the owners of No. 23 West Street, which they have recently converted into a public latrine. This was opposed under the defendants' management a few days prior to the commencement of this action, which was brought for an injunction against the continued use of the defendants' house for the purpose of a public latrine. The plaintiff is the owner (Grown and lease) of No. 19 and No. 21 West Street, No. 21 being next door to the latrine

and separated from it by a party wall. The plaintiff does not personally occupy either of his houses, but sublets the floors to weekly tenants, who occupy them in part, and in part sublet them again to others. It appears that there are a number of latrines in Hongkong which are carried on as private speculations, and which are not subject to special control except that they cannot now be erected without the approval of the Sanitary Board. The present latrine was erected before such approval was necessary, but it seems that its arrangement and construction are in accordance with what is generally approved. It is said that by reason of the limited latrine accommodation which the Government is able to provide for public use, establishments like the defendants' are highly convenient and even necessary, and this necessity was urged as a reason amongst others against granting the injunction prayed. It seems to me that although local circumstances may be taken into consideration when the question is whether or not a nuisance exists, no public necessity could justify the creation of a nuisance unless under the protection of express statutory authority. Even if a public body were authorized by Ordinance to erect public latrines, it would not be thereby entitled to infringe upon proprietary rights by creating a nuisance unless the Ordinance distinctly authorized it to do so. From the evidence I am satisfied that the latrine at No. 23 has been properly conducted, and that the ventilation is as good as the nature of the building will admit. Nothing except perhaps the erection of a second door at the entrance could to my knowledge improve the present building, in view of the nature to which it is put; but with all this and having regard also to what may be called the nature and smells of West Street I have come to the conclusion that the existence of the latrine is a nuisance to the inhabitants of adjoining and opposite houses. Situate as it is, one of a row of very small houses, in a narrow street, with its only entrance to the street, and visited as the evidence shows it has been by 2,000 to 3,000 visitors daily, I can quite believe that it interferes with the comfort and enjoyment of those living next door, even though they are of a class which is not generally fastidious about smells. The plaintiff witnesses, tenants of the houses in the immediate neighbourhood of the latrine, gave an exaggerated account of the immediate effect of the opening of the latrine upon their health and upon their businesses, but I have no reason to suppose that their objections to its being carried on are not perfectly bona fide, and I am satisfied that they sustain a real and not merely a sentimental injury from its existence. The plaintiff herself, however, does not live in West Street. She has no direct personal injury to complain of. It is not enough for her to prove a nuisance. She must also show that she is injured by it, and the only injury that she can allege is that her property is deteriorated in value. It is said that while the nuisance from the latrine exists she can neither let nor sell her property on such good terms as she could if it were not there. The answer is that as the tenant or purchaser would himself have the right to stop the nuisance at any time the value of the reversion is not necessarily affected. The authorities are very clear that to entitle a reversioner to sue in respect of a nuisance, the nuisance must be one of a permanent nature. The obstruction of light for instance will give a cause of action to a reversioner because it is an injury to the property itself, and if the reversioner could not sue the right to the light might in course of time be lost. But no length of time can legalize a nuisance caused by carrying on an offensive business, and there is nothing permanent in the nature of such a nuisance, for it can be stopped at any time. It is not the building itself at No. 23 which is a nuisance, but the use to which it is put, and this might cease before the plaintiff came into possession. The case of *Simpson against Savage*, 1 C.B. N.S. 247 illustrates the above distinction in the case of an action for damages by a reversioner, and the same principle has been fully adopted and acted upon in claims for an injunction in *Mott against Shoolbred*, L.R. 20 Eq. 23 and *Jones against Chappell*, *ibidem* p. 539. In the latter case the injury complained of was noise, steam and smoke from a factory. The plaintiff's houses were occupied by weekly tenants, several of whom were stated to have left in consequence of the nuisance. The Master of the Rolls (G. Jessel) refused relief on the ground that the nuisance might cease at any time, and did not therefore damage the reversion. He intimated that if one of the weekly tenants had been joined as a co-plaintiff, an injunction would have been granted. This case is directly in point, and it is my duty to follow it by dismissing the present action. It is clear to me that the plaintiff should have either resumed possession or induced one of her tenants to join in the action. As a reversioner suing alone she has no cause of action. The contrary view of fact having been decided in the plaintiff's favor, the dismissal of the action will be without costs.

CHIANGCHU—NEAR AMOY.

March 31st, 1893.

The correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes:—"It is some months since I wrote you, so it is about time I sent you a few brief notes of the progress of events in this part of the country. I need not refer to the weather, for I notice that all our correspondents have dealt at length with the exceptionally cold season, and have had a good deal to say about the cold snap over China. We have shared in the cold snap and much damage has, of course, been done to fruit trees and tender plants. Luckily the deaths from cold have been but few, as it was as brief as it was severe, and so less dangerous than further north."

We have not been without our share of trouble, however. The question of native Christians and Catholics being badgered and bullied to subscribe to lotteries, plays and theatrical performances is continually coming up. In several districts troubles of differing magnitude have arisen, the most serious of which has occurred lately in the Hainan country north of Chinchew. Here, at the Chinese New Year time, a band of ruffians attacked a small party of Christians assembled for prayer, and as these offered next to no resistance, much personal violence was inflicted. A man had his *gusset* pulled out by the roots, a degrading indignity to a Christian, and a terribly painful wound; a woman, the man's wife, in trying to protect her husband, was so injured that she died in a few days; two boys, a son and a friend, were badly beaten, their hands tied together with cords, and then suspended from a beam until the flesh was torn and lacerated. The missionary in charge, the Rev. R. M. Ross, was mobbed, the chapel at the district city stoned, and the outbreak for a while was so threatening that he had to leave at once for Chinchew and Amoy under an escort of soldiers for safety.

The matter is in the hands of the mandarins under strong pressure from the Amoy Consul, but so slight is the chance of immediate settlement that the matter is referred to Peking. We hope that it may not be pigeon-holed but be hurried to a speedy settlement, as at present the whole region is in an excited condition. No gross outrage cannot remain unnoticed. Here in Chiangchiu itself, we have had a minor case of similar nature, but luckily with no loss of life or injury to property, and the affair has been amicably settled without any loss of prestige to any cause.

But I have brighter facts to mention than these unfortunate troubles. The Chiangchiu Taoist has taken great interest of late in a new venture of some of our native Christians which is intended to revive the silk industry. He tried hard to get the *Hwa-shi* and rich men of the city to join hands for this object, but the inherent distrust of the Christians proved too much for him; and he could not get them to unite. So he turned to the cohesion and mutual trust of our Christians as a safer and more satisfactory means of accomplishing his object. New mulberry trees are being planted, fresh silkworm eggs have been brought from Japan, free from disease, and a start has been made that may be very fruitful in days to come. It is a significant fact that the mandarins candidly admitted that the Christians were far more to be trusted than the *Hwa-shi* and head men of the city. Already the Christians are getting a name for honesty, integrity, and truthfulness that speaks volumes for the real superiority of Christianity over the native beliefs. May it be ever and unceasingly so! It may not be uninteresting to some who question the genuineness of Chinese Christians to know of such unalloyed testimony, and I may add as another link the recent celebration in this district of a 30 years' pastorate of a Chinese native minister.

We are somewhat further advanced in this Fokien province in matters of self-help, and in the native ministry. At this very time there are no less than 24 ordained native ministers in this Amoy district alone, belonging to the three missions at work here. And on Tuesday, March 23rd, was celebrated at an inland market town—Siekhsien, 65 odd miles west of Amoy—the 30th anniversary of a native pastor, Lap Huan-ching, by name, belonging to the American Reformed Dutch Mission. At a fully attended meeting with delegates from other places and representatives of the three missions, testimony was borne to his real wisdom and piety, and to the immense progress made in mission work here; especially in the country districts during these 30 years. There may perhaps be one or two other Christians who have been ordained pastors for as long a period, but I do not know of any and I feel sure there cannot be many. Anyhow, it is a fact worth noting as proving the capability of the Chinese to fill important posts within the Church with credit to themselves and with successful results.

Among other minor matters I may mention that the Taoist has forbidden the sale of foreign oil in our city and neighbourhood on account of the fear of fire. Whether it will be effective, and for how long, still remains to be seen.

I may add a hint to sportsmen. The region all round here is infested with tigers, and many are the sad tales told of women and children and even men who have fallen victims to their ferocity and cunning, not to mention a still larger number of cows, goats and pigs that have been carried off. Wild boar also are very numerous in some of the hilly districts S. and W. of Chiangchiu, and though not so dangerous to man, they yet make great havoc of corn and vegetables. There are several small wild animals also to be found, wild cats, a kind of fox, and various other kinds. I wonder sometimes that those who are fond of sport don't try their hand in China, for not only would they enjoy the pleasures and risks of shooting to their heart's content, but they would confer benefits upon the Chinese villagers that would earn for them lasting gratitude and heartfelt thanks. The beautiful scenery to be found among the hills may form another attraction to those who are fond of nature, for there "every prospect pleases, while only man is vile."

And with that quotation from Heber's missionary hymn I think I had better close.

KIU-KING.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Kinkiang, April 4th, 1893.

The tea season is again in order. This is always a very busy time in Kinkiang. From the countryside for miles around women troop in to assist in picking over of the tea. The streets are filled with them as they stroll off to their meals or as they cease work for the day. The town at this time also has more than its share of loafers and hard characters from other places; and the optimum dens of a roaring trade. That the optimum dens prosper, if nothing else does, is evident by the gaudily decorated new buildings that have been erected.

I report in the columns of this paper some time ago the facts concerning a man in the country who had undertaken a self-imposed task of watching for three years over his mother's grave. I told also of the wretched condition in which I then found him although only a few months of his vigil had passed. He must have suffered a good deal, although the natives confidently told me that while in ordinary times he did not enjoy very good health yet since he had begun this work of merit he had wonderfully gained in strength. I was over there yesterday and found that the man had died. His attendant coming one morning some time ago to give him food found him stretched out on his mother's grave cold and stiff in death. People of course came to see him and he was then buried where he had died, at the public expense, for he had lived at the public expense and now the last rites would be performed at the same hands. He was the talk of all the neighbourhood but now it is a theme of the past and no people talk no more of him. He did not finish his task and that is an end of it, and of his merit too, I imagine.

Yesterday while on the road from the place mentioned I was overtaken by a heavy thunder storm. We seemed to be right in the centre of the electrical disturbance, and the swirling flashes were incessant and very vivid. They were to be playing all around. The discharge from one cloud entered the ground within twenty-five paces of me as I ran through a pelted downpour. For a full hour this fearful storm continued. Soon some men passing told me that a couple of miles ahead of me a man travelling on the road had been struck by the lightning and was instantly killed. I did not at first credit the story, but others passing confirmed it, and I determined to go on and see for myself. There was no difficulty in finding the place for everybody knew about it and a crowd of people were wandering their way there. Along the road this was naturally the theme of conversation, and those who were returning from seeing him were of different opinions as to how he had met his death. One assured me that he had been killed by a devil, or spirit, for there were no marks on him, others said that the thunder had struck him. Again there were tales already told of a man whose body was covered with some kind of characters from heaven which no man could understand. Many asked me if I had power to raise him from the dead again, or if I could do anything to bring him round. I told them that he was beyond human help. Arrived at the spot, I saw the body of a young man stripped to the waist and lying by a house to which he had been carried. A superstitious belief would not allow them to bring him into the house. By his side, stretched headlong, were the man's mother and wife wailing their bitter lament to Heaven. I saw the flash of lightning, and the tale of the heavenly characters was a myth; there were no marks or discoloursations. A slight mark and a little trace of blood at the left ear showed that the electric current had entered there and death must have been quicker than thought and absolutely painless. As I was looking at the body a sudden fall on

